

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young (U.S. 6,567,011) in view of Davies (U.S. 4,246,611). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...store indications of which of said context are detected as transitioning from an open state to a closed state... and

...transfer said indications of which of said contacts are detected as transitioning from said open state to said closed state to said transmission circuit.

This feature is described in the originally-filed application at page 6, lines 15-26. In particular, note the language which appears at line 16-18:

...if pressing the channel key 3A closes normally the switch contact beneath the key, the opening-closing signal of the key 3A is transmitted from the key opening-closing detector 6...

No new matter has been added.

While Young behaves in a certain manner if certain keys are depressed, Young neither discloses nor suggest the ability to detect that contacts have transitioned from an open state to a closed state.

The Official Action argues (at page 3, lines 1 and 2) that Young fails to specifically teach storing indications of which of said contacts are detected as not closed. The Official Action goes on to state:

...Davies, in the same field of remote controls, teaches that it is well known in the art to store indications of which of said contacts are detected as not closed...

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Davies, however, does not test whether a contact is stuck in an open position. If a contact is stuck in an open position, then a zero will get loaded into Davies register 102. The ability to detect whether a contact is first in an open state and subsequently in a closed state is neither disclosed nor suggested.

Thus, even by combining Young and Davies, Applicant's claimed feature of detecting transitioning from an open state to a closed state is neither disclosed nor suggested. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 5, 9 and 10, while not identical to claim 1, are also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 17, 2006

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